

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 18422 021800Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2918

S E C R E T BONN 18422

NODIS

FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT FROM AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: FRENCH DATA PROBLEM

REFS: (A) STATE 266972

(B) BONN 18248

1. I SAW GENSCHER, ACCOMPANIED BY ROTH, ON NOVEMBER 2 TO REITERATE THE U.S. POSITION ON THE FRENCH DATA PROBLEM. I NOTED THAT I HAD RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION FROM THE SECRETARY AND COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND REFERRED TO THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH YOU HAD HAD WITH GENSCHER IN NEW YORK.

2. I STRESSED THAT THE U.S. VIEWED THE CURRENT DIFFICULTY WITH THE FRENCH AS A TACTICAL PROBLEM AND REFERRED TO MY OCTOBER 22 MEETING WITH STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF IN WHICH I HAD INDICATED OUR BELIEF THAT AN ORAL APPROACH WAS THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE FRENCH. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD OPEN UP USEFUL TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS IN VIENNA AND THAT IT WAS NOT THE U.S. INTENTION TO AFFECT THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING.

3. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE HOPED TO GET THE SOVIETS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 18422 021800Z

TO EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARRIVED AT THEIR FIGURES. RECALLING

MY EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH GENSCHER ON MBFR (REF B), I REMINDED HIM ABOUT HIS COMMENT THAT BREZHNEV WOULD BE PUSHING FOR PROGRESS IN VIENNA AND THAT A GOOD WAY TO MEET SUCH PRESSURE WOULD BE TO LAUNCH A DATA DISCUSSION IN VIENNA. IN CONCLUDING MY PRESENTATION, I STRESSED AGAIN THE TACTICAL NATURE OF THE U.S. POSITION WHICH WAS NOT DESIGNED TO AFFECT THE BASIC WESTERN POSITION.

4. GENSCHER RESPONDED BY THANKING ME FOR THIS INFORMATION AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD GIVE IT CAREFUL STUDY. HE SAID THAT HE AND ROTH WERE AWAITING AN APPOINTMENT WITH SCHMIDT IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM. GENSCHER RECALLED THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD RECENTLY INDICATED A NEED FOR A POLITICAL INPUT TO GET THE MBFR TALKS REMOVED FROM EXPERTS' DISCUSSIONS. GENSCHER CONTINUED THAT THEREFORE IT WAS NECESSARY TO SPEAK TO THE CHANCELLOR TO DETERMINE WHAT HE HAD IN MIND PRIOR TO ROTH'S FLYING TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, GENSCHER STRESSED THAT THE TIMING OF THE WESTERN PRESENTATION IN VIENNA WAS ALSO A MATTER WHICH HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHANCELLOR.

5. I THANKED GENSCHER FOR THIS INFORMATION AND INDICATED THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD ALSO FIND TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR ROTH ON THIS SUBJECT USEFUL.

6. UPON LEAVING GENSCHER'S OFFICE, ROTH INDICATED TO ME THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL A COMPROMISE SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND TO THIS PROBLEM.

7. I AM CALLING ON THE CHANCELLOR ON THURSDAY AND WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY, IF APPROPRIATE, TO REITERATE OUR VIEW.
STOESSEL

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